

Amendments to the Claims:

Please amend Claim 8 and add Claims 9 through 12 to read, as follows.

Claims 1 through 7. **(Canceled)**

8. **(Currently Amended)** A charging apparatus to be used for forming an image by an electrophotographic process, said charging apparatus comprising:

a movable image bearing member, which has ~~wherein said image bearing member includes~~ a photosensitive layer and a surface protecting layer covering said photosensitive layer; ~~layer, and~~

~~wherein said surface protecting layer has a thickness of 2-10 $\mu$ m, and a taper abrasion wear of 0.1 to 1.0 mg/1000 revolutions;~~

a first charging member for charging said image bearing member; and

a second charging member provided upstream of said first charging member with respect to a direction of movement of said image bearing member, ~~wherein~~ said second charging member having ~~includes~~ an elastic rotary member rubbing against said image bearing member,

wherein the surface protecting layer has a thickness of 2-10 $\mu$ m, and a taper abrasion wear of 0.1 to 1.0 mg/1000 revolutions. ~~wherein said charging apparatus is used in an image forming apparatus of an electrophotographic process.~~

--9. **(New)** A charging apparatus according to Claim 8, wherein said elastic rotary member has a foamed rubber surface layer.

10. (New) A charging apparatus according to Claim 9, wherein said foamed rubber surface layer has an Asker C hardness of 20-40 degrees.

11. (New) A charging apparatus according to Claim 10, wherein an electrical resistance of said foamed rubber surface layer is  $10^7$  to  $10^9 \Omega$ .

12. (New) A charging apparatus according to Claim 8, wherein a voltage comprising a direct current and an alternating current superimposed one upon the other is applied to said first charging member, and a direct current voltage is applied to said second charging member.--